

Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC)
Monday, July 9, 2018
Meeting Summary
Alabama Industrial Development Training Center

AIACC convened on Monday, July 9, 2018, at the Alabama Industrial Development Training Center. The meeting was called to order by Sarah Ryan. In attendance were Council members: Fred Biasini, Brooke Bowles, Robert Caldwell, Tametria Conner, Suzanne Dowling, Megan Everett, Melanie Jones, Whitney Meade, Sarah Ryan, Todd Tomerlin and Karen Willis.

The following proxies were in attendance as well: Sondra Landers on behalf of Nancy Buckner, Sonia Cleckler on behalf of Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw, Nancy Thomas on behalf of Lucian Cronkite, Linda Jennings on behalf of Dr. Scott Harris, Justin Schwartz on behalf of Myriam Peralta, and Dianna Tullier on behalf of Secretary Jeana Ross. Anna McConnell, State Autism Coordinator was also in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting on April 9, 2018, the motion was subsequently seconded and approved.

Chairperson Comments: Sarah Ryan welcomed Tametria Conner as a new member to the Council. Tametria introduced herself, and informed the group that her five year old son has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Tametria is a former news personality from the Montgomery viewing area. Tametria looks forward to working with the Council and sharing her experiences and ideas.

Lead Agency Comments: Anna McConnell stated that Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) has been working diligently with Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) and Medicaid to augment Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services. Accordingly, as things progress, more information will be forthcoming.

State Coordinator Comments: Anna McConnell recognized AIACC members who will be rolling off in September: Sarah Ryan, Doris Hill, Greg Carlson, and Todd Tomerlin. The next SEAP meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2018, at the Elmore County Board of Education.

New Business: Dr. Martha Wingate presented updated information on the Strategic Plan. Dr. Wingate provided preliminary information from perspective of the past ten

(10) years, this data was gathered from existing sources and historical developments. By analyzing progress thus far, it will offer more of a comprehensive story. Martha noted that some of the main goals are to identify policy gaps and challenges, make improvements, and implement surveys and interviews. Martha articulated that compiled reports will be provided before any strategic actions are made.

Martha gave an overview of the Family and Caregiver Survey, which were preliminary results. She stated that only one hundred (100) surveys have been completed, and she would like to see more. The information reflects only a small fraction of families, who are caring for individuals with ASD; many of the participants were high-income families and were college-educated.

There was a discussion about disseminating the survey to more effectively reach families in different socio-economic/educational levels.

A question was asked if the surveys were presently in Spanish. Currently, there are not any translation services in place. It was pointed out that this particular service is very important and there needs to be a starting point. Long Term Care Plan, updating previous surveys, access of services, awareness of needs and transitioning to adulthood were all items that were brought into the discussion.

Anna stated that the information collected was completed in a short length of time, more work will be prepared with the current data. Services in the EPSDT settlement agreement are for a targeted age group and not for adults with ASD. Discussion on additional care for adults diagnosed with ASD. Anna emphasized needs assessments and reiterated that all findings are currently preliminary. There will be some restructuring in the committees and the Council will be able to act on their recommendations.

Bylaws/Membership: Sarah Ryan reported that new membership information has been forwarded, which includes four (4) positions and now waiting for the Governor's review and appointment. Previously appointed members will be rolling off in September.

Regional Autism Network (RAN) Quarterly Updates: Whitney Meade (UAH) pointed out that her organization is relatively new and is planning a number of conferences and seminars for educators and higher education. Stephanie Anderson (USA) on behalf of Amy Mitchell discussed diagnostic services and childcare services for children with ASD. Families face obstacles with childcare programs that do not

accept individuals with behavioral issues. Lizzie Griffith (UAB) discussed transitioning to adult services, additional support and continuous case management. Lizzie received questions from parents/caregivers dealing with school-based questions.

Public Awareness: Melanie Jones stated that Autism Friendly Alabama has partnered with Regions Bank and together they are working collaboratively. Melanie wants this incentive to encompass the whole state of Alabama. Currently, Melanie is working on funding to accomplish this goal.

Funding & Finance: Marc Williams with Behavior Analyst Licensing Board presented on behalf of Greg (who is retiring). The Board met on June 29, 2018, and issued twenty-three (23) more licenses were issued for a total of one hundred and ninety-four (194) Behavioral Analysts which includes assistants. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2018.

Update on Private Coverage for ASD: Nancy Thomas with New Directions stated that one hundred and eleven (111) claims had been processed for authorization for group services to date. Additionally, sixty-five (65) credentialed providers were approved for Applied Behavior Analysis.

Update on Public Coverage of ASD: Anna provided definitions for services and said that ADMH will hopefully have five (5) Intensive Care Coordinators in place to soon to assist in the Regional areas of Alabama. Nancy Anderson noted that the demographic of surveys received so far in the surveys are not representative of the state, and encouraged more outreach.

ADAP is striving to make services accessible to the general public, especially to individuals who are recipients of Medicaid. Correspondingly, ADAP has been working with the State on services since last fall. Discussed with the audience various on mechanisms to use to reach families. Ideas were to use simple terminology, make information available where the children and families are (schools, doctors' offices, grocery stores, etc.), interact with the schools to send information out, to get the word out via social media, etc. Discussed educating the public concerning the new package of services that are available, resources for providers, and translation services, etc.

Member Updates: Autism Shines Gala is scheduled for August 11, 2018, Camp Frog will be held September 14-15, 2018, must register by August 1, 2018.

Project ECHO's next videoconference, Introduction to ECHO Autism is scheduled for July 26, 2018. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Alabama State Department of Education (ASDE), and Huntingdon College/Alabama Ability Sports Network is hosting a free one-day workshop on Adapted Physical Education at Huntingdon College in Montgomery on July 27, 2018.

The 2nd Annual Southeast Adult Autism Symposium will be held on July 21, 2018, at The Chattanooga Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. A representative from the Department of Human Resources (DHR) graciously introduced their newest Behavior Specialists to the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Next meeting: October 15, 2018.

Recording Secretary

K. Burden